Episode 16- Melissa Pulls the Old Switcharoo on Mike!

scene 1- int. panera bread, 3/31/2011, 2PM

I'm sittin' there by myself eatin' some soup in a breadbowl. I'm all alone down there except for two other people: a girl interviewing a guy. But they're tuned out. There's also some light acoustic guitar stuff playing. MEL pops in.

melissa

Soup soup soup soup soup soup soup. I can say soup seven times. I can say it more times if I wanted to. But I didn't. So THERE!

mike

...You're weird.

MELISSA

You're weird!

Kiss.

MELISSA

How're ya doin', sweetie?

MIKE

I've been better.

MELISSA

Uh oh. What's up?

MIKE

It's crunch time! Got a bunch of crap on tap for tomorrow. An oral exam in French, (probably) a reading quiz in Horror Film, and I'm directing my TV interview tomorrow.

MELISSA

Funny. You sound busy, but you don't look busy.

MIKE

Yeah, well I just got out of class. So, if it's alright with you, I'd like five minutes to eat my soup in peace and quiet before I-

Large burst of laughter from the other table. I look over in annoyance.

interviewer

That's amazing! I had no idea Barack Obama had such a sense of humor!

interviewee

Oh yeah, he told that joke almost every day when he visited our YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM in AFRICA.

INTERVIEWER

Wow. So... what did you do in Africa?

INTERVIEWEE

We brought in underprivileged children from Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon, and others. There we provided them with the essential skills to develop into successful future leaders. Like me.

INTERVIEWER

Wow. You're such a great guy.

INTERVIEWEE

Yeah, I know.

MIKE

!!!GOD!!! Can you believe this guy?

MELISSA

You should write some of this stuff down. You can base your interview off this.

MIKE

Good idea. I'll totally lampoon his ass into the ground!

I start writing stuff down.

MELISSA

That'll teach him. Next time someone wants to say something pompous or stupid they'd better make sure you're not around.

Hint hint.

INTERVIEWER

Moving on, what is your ideal job?

INTERVIEWEE

Ah... this is a difficult question because there's so many things I could do and so many things I'm better than everyone else at. But if I had to pick one... I'd be a congressman.

INTERVIEWER

Fascinating. Why?

INTERVIEWEE

People have lost faith in their elected officials. They need somebody who will be honest and who can get things done. Someone like me. Also, as excellent as I am-

INTERVIEWER

And you are excellent-

INTERVIEWEE

Don't interrupt me. Anyways, I've never been the type of person who asks what my country can do for me. I ask what I can do for my country.

INTERVIEWER

...Wow... did you come up with that?

INTERVIEWEE

...Yeah... yeah I did.

INTERVIEWEr

...I need to write that down!

MIKE

I'm gonna chuck my bread bowl at him. I'M GONNA!

I pick up my breadbowl.

MELISSA

No, breadbowls go in your mouth.

MIKE

...Well, then it gets digested. And I can poop it out on his face.

MELISSA

No, poop goes in the toilet. Silly.

MIKE

You just know where everything goes, don't you?

She nods.

INTERVIEWEr

One question off the record... can I... can I give you a blow job?

INTERVIEWEE

I suppose... I don't think my girlfriend will mind. At least not if she knows what's good for her.

MELISSA

I take it back. POOP ON HIS FACE!!!

I stand up and start to unzip my pants.

INTRO SEQUENCE!!!

scene 2- int. mike's bedroom, 3/31/2011, 3pm

MEL and I enter in through the door outside. I chuck my backpack onto the bed.

MIKE

UGH, I'VE HAD IT WITH STUPID BUTTFACED HUMANS!!!

MELISSA

Really? I thought you would have been used to it by now...

MIKE

You'd think that. Still they keep finding new ways to show me how THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF BUTTS!!!

MELISSA

Well... don't you think that may be a bit unfair? So that guy was a bit of a bragger. Is that really reason to label the entire human race as a bunch of butts?

MIKE

If only it was just that. They all act like they're the best thing since sliced bread but all they do blow each other up and destroy the environment and torture animals and perpetuate a system that benefits like 5 people and enslave themselves to technology and materialism and give me a bunch of homework and... need I go on?

MELISSA

Nah... you've made your point. But you know... what would you rather be?

MIKE

Anything.

MELISSA

Like what?

MIKE

Well... I WANT TO BE A SKUNK!

MELISSA

Are you serious?

MIKE

Heck yes! I love skunks. They're so awesome.

I go up and stroke all the things I describe.

MIKE

They got awesome ears, awesome cutey-pie faces, a nice, soft coat of fur, and the tail... don't even get me started.

MELISSA

Well shucks, I'm flattered...

Kiss.

MELISSA

You know, though, I'm only about 70% skunk. I'm also 50% cat, 20% squirrel, 15% fox, and... yep, I'm even 3% human.

MIKE

That's... 158%.

MELISSA

Is it? Well, I may have been rounding a bit-

MIKE

Whatever! I want to be whatever you are!

MELISSA

Imaginary?

MIKE

No! I want you guys to exist for reals and then I'd be one of you and we'd run away into the forest and all that good stuff.

MELISSA

Well... sorry, but that's not happening any time soon.

MIKE

Well... that's super lame.

I sit down on the bed. MEL lies down and sprawls out next to me.

MELISSA

Why do you want to be a skunk, anyways? It's not as fun as you seem to think it is. Everybody thinks you're a pest and that you smell bad, you gotta worry about rabies, you gotta worry about being hunted, and you gotta ALWAYS groom your fur-

MIKE

But your fur is super awesome! No split ends or bunches or anything.

MELISSA

Yeah, but... that's just because I'M super awesome... and I have a lot of free time on my hands when you're at class and stuff. But you know what's not awesome? Hairballs.

MIKE

Yeah, right. I've never seen you cough up a hairball.

MELISSA

I'm discreet about it. You know, just like I'm discreet about that time of the month-

MIKE

Okay, I get it. Ah well... I'll never be a skunk anyways, so no point in trying to talk me out of it.

MELISSA

Hey, I think you'd be a great skunk. I just think you're a great human, too...

MIKE

Didn't know there was such a thing. But thanks.

MELISSA

Mm-hm.

Kiss.

MIKE

So... what should we do now?

MELISSA

Well... I've got an idea...

She pulls me in... then keels forward and starts wheezing. I put my hand on her back, and finally she hacks up a hairball. She quickly tosses it out, scarlet-faced.

MELISSA

...Don't you have some homework that needs doing?

scene 3- int. mike's living room, 3/31/2011, 11:30PM

I'm attempting to multitask but I'm not getting anywhere. I'm watching an episode of Looney Tunes with Pepe le Pieu, I have an article open on my compy and I'm writing out questions for my interview and scrapping them. MEL comes in and jumps on the couch next to VERA.

MELISSA

You know, you'd probably get more work done if you weren't trying to do ten things at once. For starters, you can turn of Pepe le Pieu over here.

MIKE

What? I'm using it as training for my French oral exam tomorrow. By listening to him I'll be able to... do better...

MEL gives me a "really?" look.

MIKE

Well... you know... he's French.

MELISSA

He's a stereotype. You want to talk to a REAL French speaking skunk, you talk to me.

MIKE

Alright. Let's have a conversation in French.

MELISSA

D'accord. Bonjour, je m'appelle Melissa.

MIKE

Ah, vraiment? Je suis Mike.

MELISSA

Qu'est-ce que tu voudrais etre?

MIKE

Je voudrais etre une mouffette.

MELISSA

Bien... euh... comment ca va?

MIKE

JE SUIS TRES FATIGUE ET JE DETESTE LES DEVOIRS!

MELISSA

...Bon... voulez-vous couchez avec moi?

MIKE

Damn it Melissa! This isn't helping!

MELISSA

Like Pepe le Pieu was? You know, you've been chugging away all night. Why don't you come to bed?

MIKE

Okay. I'll be there in a sec. I just need to brush up on how to communicate in the subjunctive.

MELISSA

Il faut que tu quittes votre devoirs. There. Now you're a master.

MIKE

Come on. 5 minutes?

MELISSA

Okay. I'll be waiting.

Kiss. She saunters off. I get back to work.

scene 4- int. mike's bedroom, 4/1/2011, 12AM

MEL's reading a book. She checks the time, then puts her book down and goes to investingate...

scene 5- int. mike's living room, 4/1/2011, 12am

I'm passed out at my desk. She comes in.

MELISSA

Hey, what happened to 5 minutes-

She notices, and sighs. She takes a glance around the room, and she notices... the calendar. A mischievious grin curls across her face. She approaches me and investigates to see how out of it I really am. Once she sees I'm out cold, she inches my ear open and slowly slips in. She drags me in after her into...

scene 6- int. mike's imagination, ???

We float down into the depths of my imagination. We reach the bottom (or whatever you want to call it). MELISSA summons the car... but it gets swept up in a thought katamari that's passing by. It's being rolled by LORD LORRO WEXLEY, a tiny plant monster thing.

MELISSA

HEY! I was going to use that, Wexley!

lord lorro wexley

That's LORD LORRO WEXLEY to you!

He rolls off. She's shit out of luck... until she raises her hand. A taxicab comes screaming forward. She picks me up and puts me in, and follows.

scene 7- int. taxicab, ???

We get seated. SCRAPS is sittin there waiting for directions.

scraps

Yo! Whereweogntoday?

MEL leans forward and whispers into his ear.

SCRAPS

...Really?

She shows him a big bag of money.

SCRAPS

Alright... howwwwwwwdawn!!!

We go speeding off.

scene 8- int. mike's bedroom, 4/1/2011, 9AM

My alarm clock goes off. I turn it off. I get up and walk towards my bathroom. VERA approaches, and looks at me. She seems confused.

vera

Meow...?

I reach down and pet her... and I realize that my arm is COVERED IN FUR! Then I realize MY OTHER ARM IS COVERED IN FUR!!! I run over to the mirror, and what should I see in the mirror but a brown skunk-squirrel-fox-cat (or whatever MELISSA really is) staring back at me!!! I brighten to a massive smile. THE TALE by JOHN CAGE begins to play as I dance around the room for about half a minute or so.

MELISSA

You're awfully chipper this morning.

MIKE

MELISSA!!! DID YOU DO THIS???

MELISSA

With what?

MIKE

I'M A SKUNK-CAT-THINGY!!!

MELISSA

Oh, really? Well, maybe I might have done something...

MIKE

OH, THANK YOU, MELISSA!!!

I jump on the bed and squeeze her. She wrestles her way out from under the covers.

MIKE

I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU I-

She wiggles her way out of bed to reveal that she's... A HUMAN??? I let her go, a little taken aback.

MIKE

WHOA! What in the... who the heck are you???

MELISSA

I'm Melissa? Your girlfriend of 6+ months?

MIKE

Yeah, but... WHAT are you?

MELISSA

I'm a human. Isn't that a little more than obvious?

MIKE

Okay, but... yesterday you WEREN'T a human...

MELISSA

Yeah, about that... while you were sleeping I kind of messed around inside your head. And... long story short, I PULLED THE OLD SWITCHAROO ON YOU!!!

MIKE

So... you mean...

MELISSA

Yup. For today I'm the human and YOU'RE the imaginary skunk-squirrel-fox-cat thingy.

MIKE

...Wait... why just for today?

MELISSA

APRIL FOOLS!!!

I slam my head down on my bed.

MIKE

UGH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

MELISSA is getting dressed... in my clothes.

MELISSA

Hmm... I should have thought ahead and made some of my clothes real, too...

She puts on one of my shirts and my jeans. They're a little loose, but not as much as you might expect.

MELISSA

Huh. Not that bad. I forget I'm a big girl by human standards... what do you think?

MIKE

How can you be worried about clothes right now??? WE NEED TO UNDO THIS!!!

MELISSA

Why? Isn't this what you wanted?

MIKE

Yeah, but... well, this isn't what I had in mind!

MELISSA

Why not?

MIKE

I thought I'd be real and that you'd be a skunk too! Then we'd run away together and live in the woods forever! Having it just some one-day ordeal when I'm not even real just makes it so I can't do my stuff. OH MY GOD MY STUFF!!!

MELISSA

Relax. Everything's gonna be fine.

MIKE

Okay. So you're gonna fix me or at least make me real or what?

MELISSA

Nope. I'm gonna fuck your shit up!!!

MIKE

NO!!! MELISSA-

MELISSA

Chill out, dude. I'll do it seriously.

MIKE

Well... okay, that's all fine and good... but just one small problem. YOU'RE NOT ME!!!

MELISSA

Yeah, about that... the thing is like I'm taking your place, so when I do my stuff, I do your stuff I think... maybe.

MIKE

...WHAT???

MELISSA

Okay, I'm not sure exactly how all this works out logistically. But... it does. Point is you'll be fine. Think of it like I'm doing all your work for you today!

MIKE

Wow... when you think of it that way, that's a pretty good deal.

MELISSA

Damn straight! Am I the best girlfriend in the world or what?

MIKE

Yeah, you're pretty good... though I preferred you when you had all that fur.

MELISSA

Yeah, yeah...

Kiss.

MELISSA

Shall we off?

MIKE

Sure. Let me just grab my...

I try to grab my hat, but my imaginary hands go right through the thing.

MELISSA

Nope. I'm wearing that today.

MIKE

!!!!! THAT'S MY HAT!!! I NEED THAT HAT!!!

MELISSA

No, I need it. You got ears. I don't I feel weird without it.

MIKE

But... it's MY hat...

MELISSA

Just imagine yourself wearing it then.

I concentrate... and a dead bird falls on top of it.

MELISSA

Takes a little getting used to, doesn't it?

MIKE

Yeah...

MELISSA

Try again.

I do. This time I get it. And I smile a smile to end all smiles!!!

scene 9- ext. u of m diag, 4/1/2011, 10AM

MEL and I are walking along. I'm sitting on top of her head, conjuring whatever insane figment pops into my head. I summon a pizza with a whole pineapple on it and I start chompin' it down.

MELISSA

Having fun?

MIKE

Heck yes! Why didn't you tell me being imaginary could be so much fun?

MELISSA

Well, it does have it's benefits-

MIKE

No kidding! I'm not convinced there are any negatives-

A person walks right through me.

MELISSA

...There's that.

MIKE

Eh. I can do without it.

MELISSA

Think about what you're saying though. That means no contact with your parents, your sis, your friends... you got me still, sure, but I get pretty boring after a while...

MIKE

Nonsense! You keep finding new ways to surprise me.

MELISSA

Yeah, but the point is-

MIKE

I know. And you're right. I'd miss people, I guess...

Beat.

MIKE

So... what's it like being a human?

MELISSA

It's interesting. I've never had any sense of responsibility... beyond what I do for you, of course.

MIKE

Life's better without it, trust me.

MELISSA

What's the point of living if you don't have a role in something larger than yourself?

MIKE

To enjoy it?

MELISSA

Hmm... well looks like we'll both be learning a thing or two about ourselves today.

MIKE

I guess so. Want a slice?

I telekinesis a slice over to her. She nibbles it.

MIKE

How's it taste?

MELISSA

...I imagine it could use a little more pineapple.

MIKE

By gum, you're right!!!

PINEAPPLES START RAINING FROM THE SKY!!!

MIKE

If only I could do this in real life...

MELISSA

You know... you should be kind of glad that you can't.

PINEAPPLES TAKE UP THE SCREEN!!!

scene 10- int. dupas' office, 4/1/2011, 10:30AM

MELISSA comes in. DUPAS, a young, hip GSI, is reclining back at his desk. I come in soon after, juggling chainsaws and motorcycles. MEL sits.

dupas

Bonjour, Melissa. Comment ca va?

MELISSA

Tres bien, merci.

MIKE

Wait... how does he know your-

MELISSA

Au francais, s'il vous plait.

MIKE

Grr... (in FRENCH) How does he know your name?

MELISSA

(also in French)

I told you, I'm basically taking your place for today. So everyone knows me as they knew you. Get it?

MIKE

I guess... sure. Whatever.

DUPAS

(ALSO in French)

So let's start... how would you describe your choice of fashion?

MELISSA

Well, to be perfectly honest, I don't care too much for clothing. Fact is, for me, clothing is more for practical purposes than anything else. In fact, when I'm at my apartment by myself... I'm almost always naked.

DUPAS laughs.

MIKE

It's true.

MELISSA

But when I do wear clothes, it's usually just a T-shirt and jeans. Oh, and of course, the hat.

DUPAS

Okay, I must ask... why the hat?

MELISSA

Because this hat is awesome! I love this hat!

DUPAS

I love it too. But is there any special reason?

MELISSA

Well... this hat is actually my boyfriend's. For him, though, it means a lot of things. It means he's a Michigan fan, it means he loves animals, it means he's different... and... well, he'll never admit it to anyone, but it's his way of trying to tell people that he's into furry.

MIKE

WHAT!?!?!?!?!?!??!

DUPAS

Very interesting... so does that mean that when you two fool around-

MELISSA

I'd rather not get into that, thanks.

dupas

Relax. I'm just interested-

He gives her the eye. She shoots razors back, and he quickly changes topic.

DUPAS

Er... so... what's your favorite holiday?

scene 11- int. lorch lecture room, 4/1/2011, 1pm

MARK, the squirrely theater professor, is talking to the other students while MELISSA is unpacking her stuff. I'm constructing squiggly spiders!

MELISSA

I swear, he was totally hitting on me!

MIKE

Welcome to the real world. If you're a young girl who's even somewhat attractive, everyone's gonna try to get in your pants.

MELISSA

Ugh... suddenly I miss being imaginary.

MIKE

Told you. Here, have a squiggly spider.

MELISSA flicks it away.

Mark

Alright guys, I want to start things off with a quick reading quiz. So get out a piece of paper real quick.

Everyone does.

MARK

The question is... how could the young priest in The Exorcist considered grotesque?

MELISSA

Pfft I got this.

MIKE

Easy. It's because-

MELISSA

I know. I got it.

She starts writing. I eye her suspiciously, and she shelters her paper for a good 5-10 seconds.

MARK

Alright guys, that's it. Hand 'em up to the front.

Everyone hands 'em up to the front.

MARK

So what'd you guys say? Melissa, what'd you say?

I look at her, panicked.

MELISSA

I said he was grotesque because he simultaneously inhabits the world of the holy and profane at the same time. Even though he's a priest in the Catholic church, he drinks, he's vulnerable to fits of rage, and in the end he's reduced to beating up a little girl.

MARK

What is it that ambivalence between realms known as?

MELISSA

Liminality.

MARK

Beautiful. Did everyone else get that?

Scattered murmurs of agreement.

MARK

According to the readings for today, this is the basis for much of the horror not just in the film, but in many other horror movies as well. So anything existing between, for example, innocence and perversion, living and dead, human and animal-

MIKE

HEY!!!

MARK

Jimmy Stewart and a wooden puppet... oh, did you all not see that movie? Way back when there was a Saturday morning TV show with a puppet that sounded just like Jimmy Stewart and he'd always be worried about his miasma. (Jimmy Steward Impression) "Oh, we can't do that. It's not good for my miasma!" It was fuckin' scary, man.

Laughter.

MARK

So what was I talking about?

scene 12- int. tv studio, 4/1/2011, 3PM

MELISSA is sitting at the director's control panel as people are setting up an interview with INTERVIEW MAN and INTERVIEW WOMAN on the other side of the window. I'm doing the spider crawl around the room with all the scribble spiders I created.

MIKE

You know, poop on those theorists. I'm having a blast existing in a liminal state.

MELISSA

Nah, you're grotesque in every sense of the word. I mean, look at you. You're playing with spiders. That's pretty gross.

MIKE

Hey, these guys are awesome. They're the best thing since-

The spiders start to attack me!

MIKE

OH NO!!!

MELISSA

Alright, quiet on the set please, and let's get started in 10.

Countdown begins.

MELISSA

Ready fade in camera 2 ready fade in music... fade in camera 2 fade in music... ready fade out music ready fade in sound ready camera 1 ready cue talent... fade music fade in sound cue talent take 1.

I fight of the spiders and observe her directing.

MIKE

Wow... you're actually doing a really good job.

MELISSA

What can I say? I paid attention when you did it.

interview man

Our life is an illusion. But here on Rien du Tout, we break through that illusion and explore the questions that are really important.

MIKE

This isn't the script I wrote...

MELISSA

You were pretty frizzed out last night so I did some edits to it. I think it captures what you were going for. Ready 2...

INTERVIEW MAN

Today, my colleague is renowned philosophy professor, Snizz Twizzle.

MELISSA

Take 2.

INTERVIEW MAN

First question... if you put rails in a road, why then would you not have a railroad?

MELISSA

Ready 3... take 3.

interview woman

You would have a railroad. By definition a railroad is a road with rails... this is a pure concrete example about how people are simultaneously bound by their own language and at the same time we refuse to acknowledge it's true... (cracks up) I'm sorry.

Everyone on the set starts cracking up.

MIKE

Melissa...

MELISSA

Relax, this is pure gold. Ready 1...

INTERVIEW WOMAN

Er... you see, this is one of the reasons we need to reconsider the parameters of our language and how we exist and interact with each other.

MELISSA

Take 1.

Cut to INTERVIEW MAN. He stares blankly into the camera. Everyone cracks up again, including me.

INTERVIEW MAN

Second question... sex?

Everyone bursts with laughter. The scene is a trainwreck.

scene 13- int mike's bedroom, 4/1/2011, 6PM

We walk in through the back entrance.

MIKE

So how was your day as a human?

MELISSA

It was pretty fun. But you know what?

She poofs back into her original, beautiful skunky self.

MELISSA

I prefer being what I am. So that's what I'm gonna be!

MIKE

Well... I like being what you are, to. So... can I stay like this a little longer?

MELISSA

Sure. As long as you learned something today.

MIKE

That being an imaginary skunk thing is awesome?

MELISSA

Come on.

MIKE

Fine. Even though it's fun to pretend I have responsibilities to fulfill or some shit like that...

MELISSa

Great, Mike. Actually, the lesson is to be yourself, no matter what skin you're in or some shit like that... I don't know.

MIKE

Ah well. We don't necessarily have to have some concrete deeper meaning on April Fool's Day.

MELISSA

Guess you're right.

Kiss.

MIKE

What should we do with the rest of my time as an imaginary skunk thing?

MELISSA

Well...

She inches in all sensuous like. Suddenly I start wheezing and I cough up a hairball. It mutates into a grotesque human baby thing and crawls out the door.

mike and melissa

HAIRBALL HUNT!!!

We go and fight that hairball.

outro sequence!!!

APRIL FOOLS